



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Geiste et al.

EXAMINER: TBA

SERIAL NO.: 10/714,733

GROUP UNIT: 3721

FILED: November 17, 2003

DATED: March 3, 2004

FOR: SURGICAL STAPLER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL FORM

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

- [] Small entity status of this application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9 and 1.27 has been established by a verified statement previously submitted.
- [] A verified statement to establish small entity under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9 and 1.27 is enclosed.
- [] No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col. 1)	(Col. 2)	(Col. 3)	SMALL ENTITY	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE FEE OR	ADDIT. RATE FEE
TOTAL	21*	MINUS 20**	= 1	X 9 \$ 9.00	X 18 \$ 0
INDEP.	2*	MINUS 3**	= 0	X 43 \$	X 86 \$ 0
□ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM			X 145 \$	X 290 \$ 0	
			TOTAL	OR TOTAL	\$ 9.00
			<u>ADDIT. FEE</u>	<u>\$ -0-</u>	

* If the entry in Co. 1 is less than entry in Col. 2, write "0" in Col. 3.

** If the "Highest No. Previously Paid for" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

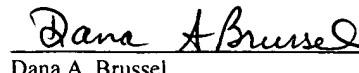
*** If the "Highest No. Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The Highest No. Previously Paid For" (Total or indep.) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in Col. 1 of a prior amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 3, 2004.

Dated: March 3, 2004


Dana A. Brussel

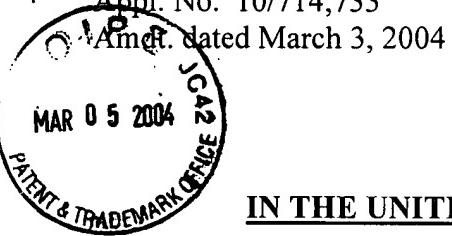
- Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-2140 in the amount of \$_____. Two (2) copies of this sheet are enclosed.
- A check in the amount of \$9.00 is enclosed.
- Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 50-2140. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge Deposit Account No. 50-2140 therefor. TWO (2) COPIES OF THIS SHEET ARE ENCLOSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana A. Brussel
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Attorney for Applicant(s)

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DAB/jjp



Appl. No. 10/714,733
Amct. dated March 3, 2004

Atty. Docket: 1705 DIV CON 2
(203-1543 DIV CON 2)

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.

03/09/2004 WASFAN1 00000082 10714733

01 FC:2202

9.00 OP

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